

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claim 18 as follows.

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18. (Amended) A motor vehicle transmission shifting device slot cover, the shifting device having a selector lever and kinematics for transmitting the selection movements to a transmission and at least one shift gate, the slot cover comprising:

5 a movable louver which covers the at least one shift gate, said louver having at least one opening for the passage of the selector lever, said louver being an endless band forming a closed loop;

a louver guide for guiding the movable louver;

a cover plate, said louver guide being moveable in relation to said cover plate at right angles to the direction of movement of the louver with respect to said louver guide.

Claim 19 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

19. A slot cover in accordance with claim 18, wherein said louver guide has at least one deflecting element.

Claim 20 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

20. A slot cover in accordance with claim 19, wherein said at least one said deflecting element has a curved deflecting surface.

Please replace claim 21 as follows.

21. (Amended) A slot cover in accordance with claim 20, wherein said at least one said deflecting element is one of a pulley having a deflecting axis and a deflecting shaft.

Claim 22 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

22. A slot cover in accordance with claim 20, wherein the deflecting element is a continuous rotating deflecting roller which has a gear at its edge.

Claim 23 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

23. A slot cover in accordance with claim 20, wherein said deflecting element comprises two coaxially mounted deflecting rollers which are separated from one another and have elevated edge beads.

Claim 24 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

24. A slot cover in accordance with claim 20, wherein said deflecting element is arranged within said louver closed loop.

Claim 25 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

25. A slot cover in accordance with claim 20, said deflecting element is arranged outside said louver loop.

Claim 26 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

26. A slot cover in accordance with claim 20, wherein said louver guide includes a support structure, said deflecting element being mounted elastically to said support structure.

Claim 27 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

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27. A slot cover in accordance with claim 18, wherein said louver comprises an elastic louver portion having elastic properties, at least in the circumferential direction of the closed loop, said elastic louver portion being provided over at least a part of a length of said louver.

Claim 28 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

28. A slot cover in accordance with claim 18, wherein said louver comprises a plurality of parts.

Claim 29 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

29. A slot cover in accordance with claim 18, wherein said louver guide includes a support structure with slide rails arranged laterally and engaged by said louver for guiding said louver.

Claim 30 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

30. A slot cover in accordance with claim 18, wherein said louver has two openings, through which the selector lever passes.

Claim 31 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

31. A slot cover in accordance with claim 18, further comprising:
a cover plate with the shift gate provided for the selector lever.

Please replace claim 32 as follows.

32. (Amended) A slot cover in accordance with claim 18, further comprising:
signal transmitters;

signal receivers, signals of said signal transmitters being detected by signal receivers
arranged at spaced locations from said signal transmitters, arranged on the deflecting elements
for detecting the shift positions of the selector lever.

Please replace claim 33 as follows.

33. (Amended) A slot cover in accordance with claim 32, wherein signal transmitters
include permanent magnets and said signal receivers are hall sensors, shift positions being
detected by means of said Hall sensors and permanent magnets associated with said signal
transmitters, wherein a pair of measured values is correspondingly assigned to each shift
position.

Please cancel claim 34 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims.

35. (New) A motor vehicle transmission shifting device slot cover, the shifting device having a selector lever and at least one shift gate, the slot cover comprising:

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a movable louver which covers the at least one shift gate, said louver having at least one opening for the passage of the selector lever, said louver being an endless band forming a closed loop;

5 a louver guide for guiding the movable louver, said louver guide including a deflection element;

a signal transmitter mounted on said deflection element;

10 a signal receiver arranged at a spaced location from the said signal transmitter, a signal of said signal transmitter being detectable by said signal receiver for detecting shift positions of the shifting device.

36. (New) A shifting device slot cover comprising:

a louver guide;

a louver movably connected to said louver guide in a first direction, said louver including an endless band forming a closed loop, said louver defining a selector lever opening.;

5 a cover plate, said louver guide being movably connected to said cover plate in a second direction, said second direction being substantially perpendicular to said first direction.

37. (New) A cover in accordance with claim A, wherein:

said first and second directions are in a plane substantially parallel to a plane of said